

Item #41: Site Preparation on Slopes Exceeding 40%

Evaluation Question: Are cutover areas on steeper slopes receiving timely site preparation to contribute to regeneration within prescribed time limits and standards?

Resources to be measured: Acres of site preparation on slopes greater than 40%, by year.

Data Sources:

- FACTS query for stands with completed site preparation
- GIS slope data

This monitoring item is related to reforestation monitoring, addressed in item # 39. The data below reflects site preparation since 2001.

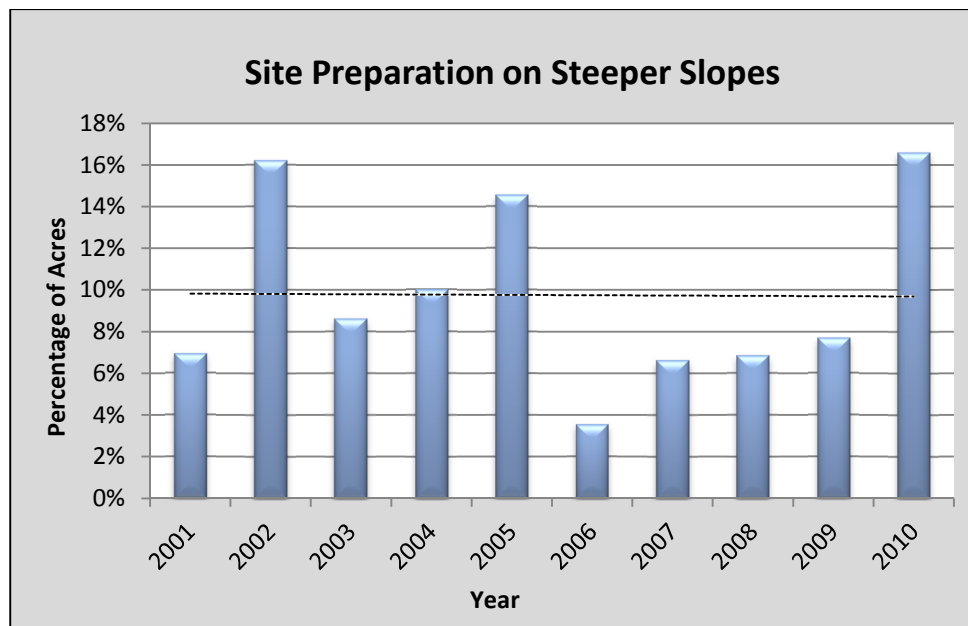


Figure 1. Acres of Site Preparation on Slopes Greater than 40%

Over the decade, site preparation has occurred on 632 acres greater than 40% slope, while harvest has occurred on 11,565 acres. The reason for this large discrepancy is the large acreage of fire salvage within the decade. In most harvested areas which were previously burned, adequate trees remained to provide seed for the new stands, or planting was feasible, without any further soil disturbance or site preparation.

For this reason, this monitoring item in and of itself is not very meaningful. Site preparation typically occurs the year following harvest, so no direct comparison to item #37 can be made. If the underlying concern is timeliness of regeneration, then monitoring item #39 may be a better measure. This item shows that regeneration is well within prescribed timeframes. With the small amount of harvest occurring on steep slopes on an annual basis, this may no longer be an item that merits tracking.

Recommended Actions: Recommend that this item be discontinued.